

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAB-01 /075 W

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R 201156Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4646

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

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BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD - GENEVA FOR NEA DEPASSTSEC SAUNDERS,
MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJ: SYRIA RESUMES ACTIVE ATTEMPT TO MEDIATE LEBANESE
CRISIS

1. SEPT 20 MEDIA REPORTED THAT FONMIN KHADDAM AND COS
SHIHABI ARRIVED PREVIOUS DAY IN BEIRUT FOR TALKS WITH
LEBANESE LEADERS. KHADDAM AND SHIHABI WENT DIRECTLY TO
PRESIDENTIAL PALACE WHERE KHADDAM DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM
ASAD TO FRANJIEH. CHAMOUN, TWEINI AND USAYRAN ALSO
ATTENDED MEETINGS, AND KHADDAM WAS ALSO IN TOUCH WITH PRIME
MINISTER, MUFTI, MARONITE PATRIARCH AND SAIQA LEADER
ZUHAYR MUHSIN. SYRIAN ENVOYS WILL REPORTEDLY "CONDUCT
SERIES OF CONTACTS WITH ALL PARTIES TO REACH IDEAL FORMULA
THAT WILL RESOLVE CURRENT LEBANESE CRISIS."

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2. COMMENT:

KHADDAM-SHIHABI VISIT MARKS ACTIVE RE-ENTRY OF SYRIA INTO MEDIATION EFFORTS AIMED AT REACHING SOLUTION TO PROBLEMS BESETTING LEBANON. SYRIA HAS MAINTAINED LOW PROFILE SINCE ITS EFFORTS DURING MAY-JULY HELPED BRING ABOUT TEMPORARLY SUSPENSION OF VIOLENCE. RENEWED SYRIAN CONCERN OVER LATEST FLARE-UP FIRST SURFACED THIS WEEK WHEN KHADDAM AND INTERIOR MINISTER ZAZA RECEIVED SAEB SALAM FOR RUN-DOWN ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. FACT THAT SARG ASSIGNED ITS FIRST TEAM TO MEDIATE LEBANESE CRISIS IN MIDST OF INTENSIFYING SYRIAN CAMPAIGN TO LEAD OTHER ARAB STATES TO OPPOSE SINAI AGREEMENT SHOWS SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THIS REGIME VIEWS DETERIORATION OF SITUATION IN LEBANON.
MURPHY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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